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EXAMINER

DUNWOODY, AARON M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3679

DATE MAILED: 03/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/773,566

Applicant(s)

LANGENFELD ET AL.

Examiner

Aaron M Dunwoody

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5 and 6 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4 and 7-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/10/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 5 and 6 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 1/21/2005.

Applicant's election without traverse of the species of Group I in the reply filed on 1/21/2005 is acknowledged.

Priority

No priority claimed.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) filed 8/10/2004 is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 14 recites, "at least one of the first frame and the second frame comprises a second alignment structure... the second alignment structure being in addition to the second coupling member"; however, neither the claim language in claim 1 or claim 14

Art Unit: 3679

recites a first alignment structure, so how can there be a second alignment structure without a first alignment structure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 7-16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United Kingdom patent GB 130418, Caudron et al.

In regards to claim 1, Caudron et al disclose a hydraulic line attachment device comprising:

(a) a first assembly comprising a first frame (g) constructed for holding a plurality of first hydraulic line couplers and a first coupling member; and

(b) a second assembly comprising a second frame (f) constructed for holding a plurality of second hydraulic line couplers and a second coupling member constructed to engage the first coupling member and align the plurality of first hydraulic line couplers with the plurality of second hydraulic line couplers;

(c) wherein at least one of the first coupling member and the second coupling member comprises an arm (h) constructed to engage at least one of the first frame and the second frame and engage the other of the first coupling member and the second coupling member, and wherein the other of the first coupling member and the second

Art Unit: 3679

coupling member comprises a cam (f^{10}) that engages the arm to provide tightening of the first assembly relative to the second assembly.

In regards to claim 2, Caudron et al disclose at least one of the first coupling member and the second coupling member rotating relative to the other of the first coupling member and the second coupling member to provide tightening of the first assembly relative to the second assembly.

In regards to claim 7, Caudron et al disclose the arm comprising a shaft and a roll pin.

In regards to claim 8, Caudron et al disclose the cam comprising a bushing comprising a track for engaging the roll pin.

In regards to claim 9, Caudron et al disclose the track being a spiral track.

In regards to claim 10, Caudron et al disclose the plurality of first hydraulic line couplers being constructed to interlock with the plurality of second hydraulic line couplers by a ball bearing arrangement.

In regards to claim 11, Caudron et al disclose the shaft comprising a roll pin and the bushing comprises a spiral track constructed to slidably receive the roll pin to provide tightening of the first assembly relative to the second assembly.

In regards to claim 12, Caudron et al disclose a handle coupled to one of the first coupling member and the second coupling member, whereby rotating the handle causes tightening of the first assembly relative to the second assembly.

In regards to claim 13, Caudron et al disclose first hydraulic line fittings constructed to communicate with the plurality of first hydraulic line couplers through

Art Unit: 3679

holes defined in the first frame and second hydraulic line fittings constructed to communicate with the plurality of second hydraulic line couplers through holes defined in the second frame.

In regards to claim 14, as best understood, Caudron et al disclose at least one of the first frame and the second frame comprises a second alignment structure (a¹⁰) for aligning the plurality of first hydraulic line couplers with the plurality of second hydraulic line couplers, the second alignment structure being in addition to the second coupling member.

In regards to claim 15, as best understood, Caudron et al disclose the alignment structure comprising a key rod constructed to engage a key way slot.

In regards to claim 16, Caudron et al disclose the handle having a weight sufficient to keep the two assemblies in a tightened position after the two assemblies have been fully tightened relative to each other.

In regards to claim 19, Caudron et al disclose a method for using a hydraulic line attachment device, the method comprising:

(a) connecting a plurality of first hydraulic line couplers to a plurality of second hydraulic line couplers by connecting a first assembly to a second assembly, wherein the first assembly comprises a frame for holding the plurality of first hydraulic line couplers and a first coupling member and the second assembly comprises a second frame for holding the plurality of second hydraulic line couplers and a second coupling member, wherein the second coupling member is constructed to engage the first coupling member and align the plurality of first hydraulic line couplers with the plurality

Art Unit: 3679

of second hydraulic line couplers, wherein at least one of the first coupling member and the second coupling member comprises an arm constructed to engage at least one of the first frame and the second frame and engage the other of the first coupling member and the second coupling member, and wherein the other of the first coupling member and the second coupling member comprises a cam that engages the arm to provide tightening of the first assembly relative to the second assembly.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 2788991, Neuhauser.

In regards to claim 1, Neuhauser discloses a hydraulic line attachment device comprising:

- (a) a first assembly comprising a first frame (2) constructed for holding a plurality of first hydraulic line couplers and a first coupling member; and
- (b) a second assembly comprising a second frame (30) constructed for holding a plurality of second hydraulic line couplers and a second coupling member constructed to engage the first coupling member and align the plurality of first hydraulic line couplers with the plurality of second hydraulic line couplers;
- (c) wherein at least one of the first coupling member and the second coupling member comprises an arm (60) constructed to engage at least one of the first frame and the second frame and engage the other of the first coupling member and the second coupling member, and wherein the other of the first coupling member and the

Art Unit: 3679

second coupling member comprises a cam (see Figure 2) that engages the arm to provide tightening of the first assembly relative to the second assembly.

In regards to claim 2, Neuhauser discloses at least one of the first coupling member and the second coupling member rotating relative to the other of the first coupling member and the second coupling member to provide tightening of the first assembly relative to the second assembly.

In regards to claim 7, Neuhauser discloses the arm comprising a shaft and a roll pin.

In regards to claim 8, Neuhauser discloses the cam comprising a bushing comprising a track for engaging the roll pin.

In regards to claim 10, Neuhauser discloses the plurality of first hydraulic line couplers being constructed to interlock with the plurality of second hydraulic line couplers by a ball bearing arrangement.

In regards to claim 12, Neuhauser discloses a handle coupled to one of the first coupling member and the second coupling member, whereby rotating the handle causes tightening of the first assembly relative to the second assembly.

In regards to claim 13, Neuhauser discloses first hydraulic line fittings constructed to communicate with the plurality of first hydraulic line couplers through holes defined in the first frame and second hydraulic line fittings constructed to communicate with the plurality of second hydraulic line couplers through holes defined in the second frame.

Art Unit: 3679

In regards to claim 16, Neuhauser discloses the handle having a weight sufficient to keep the two assemblies in a tightened position after the two assemblies have been fully tightened relative to each other:

In regards to claim 19, Neuhauser discloses a method for using a hydraulic line attachment device, the method comprising:

(a) connecting a plurality of first hydraulic line couplers to a plurality of second hydraulic line couplers by connecting a first assembly to a second assembly, wherein the first assembly comprises a frame for holding the plurality of first hydraulic line couplers and a first coupling member and the second assembly comprises a second frame for holding the plurality of second hydraulic line couplers and a second coupling member, wherein the second coupling member is constructed to engage the first coupling member and align the plurality of first hydraulic line couplers with the plurality of second hydraulic line couplers, wherein at least one of the first coupling member and the second coupling member comprises an arm constructed to engage at least one of the first frame and the second frame and engage the other of the first coupling member and the second coupling member, and wherein the other of the first coupling member and the second coupling member comprises a cam that engages the arm to provide tightening of the first assembly relative to the second assembly.

Art Unit: 3679

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 13, 14 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US patent 6595552, Mortari.

In regards to claim 1, Mortari discloses a hydraulic line attachment device comprising:

(a) a first assembly comprising a first frame (31) constructed for holding a plurality of first hydraulic line couplers and a first coupling member; and

(b) a second assembly comprising a second frame (13) constructed for holding a plurality of second hydraulic line couplers and a second coupling member constructed to engage the first coupling member and align the plurality of first hydraulic line couplers with the plurality of second hydraulic line couplers;

(c) wherein at least one of the first coupling member and the second coupling member comprises an arm (15) constructed to engage at least one of the first frame and the second frame and engage the other of the first coupling member and the second coupling member, and wherein the other of the first coupling member and the second coupling member comprises a cam that engages the arm to provide tightening of the first assembly relative to the second assembly.

In regards to claim 2, Mortari discloses at least one of the first coupling member and the second coupling member rotating relative to the other of the first coupling

Art Unit: 3679

member and the second coupling member to provide tightening of the first assembly relative to the second assembly.

In regards to claim 4, Mortari discloses each frame being constructed for holding at least four hydraulic line couplers.

In regards to claim 10, Mortari discloses the plurality of first hydraulic line couplers being constructed to interlock with the plurality of second hydraulic line couplers by a ball bearing arrangement.

In regards to claim 13, Mortari discloses first hydraulic line fittings constructed to communicate with the plurality of first hydraulic line couplers through holes defined in the first frame and second hydraulic line fittings constructed to communicate with the plurality of second hydraulic line couplers through holes defined in the second frame.

In regards to claim 14, as best understood, Mortari disclose at least one of the first frame and the second frame comprises a second alignment structure (35b) for aligning the plurality of first hydraulic line couplers with the plurality of second hydraulic line couplers, the second alignment structure being in addition to the second coupling member.

In regards to claim 17, Mortari discloses at least one of the first assembly and the second assembly comprising a housing for receiving the other of the first assembly and the second assembly therein, wherein the housing is for concealing and providing protection for the hydraulic line couplers.

In regards to claim 18, Mortari discloses at least one of the first assembly and the second assembly comprising a bracket for attaching to an environment where hydraulic cylinders are used.

In regards to claim 19, Mortari discloses a method for using a hydraulic line attachment device, the method comprising:

(a) connecting a plurality of first hydraulic line couplers to a plurality of second hydraulic line couplers by connecting a first assembly to a second assembly, wherein the first assembly comprises a frame for holding the plurality of first hydraulic line couplers and a first coupling member and the second assembly comprises a second frame for holding the plurality of second hydraulic line couplers and a second coupling member, wherein the second coupling member is constructed to engage the first coupling member and align the plurality of first hydraulic line couplers with the plurality of second hydraulic line couplers, wherein at least one of the first coupling member and the second coupling member comprises an arm constructed to engage at least one of the first frame and the second frame and engage the other of the first coupling member and the second coupling member, and wherein the other of the first coupling member and the second coupling member comprises a cam that engages the arm to provide tightening of the first assembly relative to the second assembly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caudron et al.

In regards to claim 4, Caudron et al disclose the claimed invention except for each frame being constructed for holding at least four hydraulic line couplers. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to constructed each frame for holding at least four hydraulic line couplers, since duplicating the components of a prior art device is a design consideration within the skill of the art. In re Harza, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960).

Claims 4, 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neuhauser.

In regards to claim 4, Neuhauser discloses the claimed invention except for each frame being constructed for holding at least four hydraulic line couplers. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to constructed each frame for holding at least four hydraulic line couplers, since duplicating the components of a prior art device is a design consideration within the skill of the art. In re Harza, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960).

Art Unit: 3679

In regards to claim 9, Neuhauser discloses the claimed invention except for the track being a spiral track. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to fabricate the track as a spiral track, since a change in the shape of a prior art device is a design consideration within the skill of the art. In re Dailey, 357 F.2d 669, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1966).

In regards to claim 11, Neuhauser discloses the shaft comprising a roll pin and the bushing comprising a spiral track constructed to slidably receive the roll pin to provide tightening of the first assembly relative to the second assembly.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure because it illustrates the inventive concept of the invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M Dunwoody whose telephone number is 703-306-3436. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P Stodola can be reached on 703-306-5771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3679

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Aaron M Dunwoody
Examiner
Art Unit 3679

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